

ATTACHMENT - REMARKS

By this Amendment, the allowable subject matters of dependent claims 26, 28 and 30 have been rewritten in independent form, so that all pending independent claims are now allowable or already allowed. Consistent with the rewriting of the allowable subject matters in independent form, one claim is canceled and new dependent claims identical to previously dependent claims are added to depend from the new independent claims. It is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

Initially in the *Drawings* section of the DETAILED ACTION, the drawings were objected to for failure to show every feature specified in the claims. In particular, the examiner asserted that the “one or more further layers of material” recited in claim 25 was not shown. However, with reference to figure 4 and lines 29-35 of page 9 of the specification, it will be appreciated that an “additional fabric 14” (9/33) is shown in figure 4 – and that this “additional” fabric thus meets shows the limitation of a “further layer of material”. Therefore, the objection to the drawings should now be withdrawn.

In the following *Claim Rejections* - 35 USC § 102 and § 103 sections, independent claim 23 and dependent claims 24-25, 27, 29 and 31 were rejected as being anticipated by, or obvious over, the newly applied Menchetti patent. However, in the following *Allowable Subject Matter* section, the examiner indicated that claims 26, 28 and 30 dependent on independent claim 23 all contained allowable subject matter. This indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

In view of this indication of allowable subject matter, the claims have now been amended as follows.

- 1) The allowable subject matter of dependent claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form to make this subject matter allowable as indicated by added this subject matter to independent claim 23; so that dependent claim 26 has now been canceled consistent therewith. Thus, amended independent claim 23 is now allowable; and, based on their dependence from an allowable independent claim, claims 24-25 and 27-31 dependent from allowable amended independent claim 23 are likewise also now allowable without further substantive consideration.
- 2) The allowable subject matter of dependent claim 28 (including the subject matter of claim 27 from which claim 28 immediately depended as well as the subject matter of independent claim 23) has been rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 32 to make this subject matter allowable as indicated by the examiner. In addition, the subject matters of respective dependent claims 24-26 and 29-31 have been rewritten as new dependent claims 33-38 depending from new independent claim 32. Thus, new independent claim 32 containing the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 28 is now allowable; and, based on their dependence from an allowable independent claim, new claims 33-38 dependent from new independent claim 32 are likewise also now allowable without further substantive consideration.
- 3) The allowable subject matter of dependent claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 39 to make this subject matter allowable as indicated by the examiner. In addition, the subject matters of respective dependent claims 24-29 and 31 have been rewritten as new dependent claims 40-46 depending from new independent claim 39. Thus, new independent claim 39 containing the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 30 is now

allowable; and, based on their dependence from an allowable independent claim, new claims 40-46 dependent from new independent claim 39 are likewise also now allowable without further substantive consideration.

The remaining claims in this application, independent claim 18 and claims 6-8, 10-12 and 19-22 dependent therefrom, have all been indicated as being allowed in the *Allowable Subject Matter* section. Thus, all claims in this application are now allowed or allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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